

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT EUGENE DISTRICT OFFICE**

**MIDDLE SIUSLAW - OXBOW CREEK AQUATIC  
HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN**

**DECISION RECORD DOCUMENTATION AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Environmental Assessment No. OR-090-01-12

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Coast Range and South Valley Resource Areas, Eugene District, Bureau of Land Management, have completed an Aquatic Habitat Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for aquatic habitat restoration projects in Oxbow Creek, western Lane County, Oregon.

The design features of the Proposed Action and Alternatives are described in the Environmental Assessment OR-090-01-12. Project work would improve the quality of aquatic and riparian habitat in Oxbow Creek and tributaries. The Proposed Action is fully consistent with the objectives and restoration recommendations in the Eugene District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the Northwest Forest Plan.

Based on extensive experience with similar work in the Siuslaw River Basin, in other Oregon coast streams, and evaluation of similar project work, no significant adverse impacts are expected to: Flood plains or wetland/riparian areas, wilderness values, cultural resources, prime or unique farmland, wild and scenic rivers, air quality, Native American religious concerns, low income or minority populations, water quality or noxious weeds.

On the basis of information contained in the EA, and all other information available, it has been determined that the Alternatives analyzed will not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the Eugene District Resource Management Plan and Record Of Decision, and do not constitute a major Federal action affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement or supplement to the existing Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared for this proposal.

Based on the analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) OR-090-01-12 and the Finding of No Significant Impact it is my decision to select the Proposed Action. Implementation of this action will result in improvement of aquatic habitat in Oxbow Creek and related tributaries through culvert and road rehabilitation, riparian vegetation restoration and placement of habitat structure in the Oxbow Creek and tributaries. Implementation is to occur in a five year period beginning in 2001. While proposed project sites and actions for Oxbow Creek and tributaries are listed in the EA, additional site-specific NEPA documents will be necessary for other individual projects located here.

**DECISION RATIONALE**

The Proposed Action was selected because it best meets the purpose of the action as described in the EA. The

Proposed Action provides for the most improvement in aquatic habitat for resident and anadromous aquatic species. Both the No Action Alternative and Alternative 2 provide for an improvement in aquatic habitat but to a lesser extent and over a longer period of time. The proposed action and alternatives are in conformance with the *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994 (ROD)*, and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, June 1995 (Eugene District ROD/RMP)* as amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management January 2001*.

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The Programmatic Biological Assessment addressing this proposal related to Federally listed or proposed terrestrial animals was submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on December 15, 2000. Because of the potential for audio disturbance to marbled murrelets and spotted owls during the critical nesting period, this proposed action for marbled murrelets and spotted owls is a "May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect" call. There would be no affect to the bald eagle. The USFWS response, in the form of a Biological Opinion, is expected prior to on ground work. This action will not take place prior to the issuance of this Opinion.

As a result of the decision to list Coastal Coho salmon as "threatened" under the ESA by the National Marine Fisheries Service (August 10, 1998) consultation is required to conduct stream restoration efforts that are Likely to Adversely Affect. Enhancement work proposed in this EA is covered under the Programmatic Biological Assessment for the Oregon Coast Province (July 23, 1999) and Biological Opinion (July 5, 2000). Prior to beginning on-ground project work all required permits will be obtained.

All required sensitive species clearances have been completed. One "Bureau Tracking" botanical species, *Cimicifuga elata* has been found in the proposed project area. Suggested management recommendations to protect this plant species will be followed during enhancement operations. In the event other sensitive species are found during operations, the individual proposed project action may be modified or excluded as required.

No cultural resources have been identified in the actual project action locations.

The Proposed Action includes projects situated on non-Federal lands. Coordination has continued with the land owners and appropriate County and State agencies. Under the Wyden Amendment, BLM has the authority to participate in project activities on non-Federal lands with the written approval of the land owner. Implementation of Proposed Actions on non-Federal lands will be done only after receiving written approval and in accordance with legal requirements.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Both the EA and preliminary FONSI were advertised on (April 4, 2001) in the Eugene Register-Guard as being available for a 30-day public review period. Copies of the EA and preliminary FONSI were mailed to interested individuals on our mailing list. No comments were received.

Coast Range Field Manager: J O I Williams Date: 6/21/01

South Valley Field Manager: Steven Calish Date: 6/21/01